

# NEWSLETTER Friends of WMU | 82

One World, One Family JAPAN March 2023



The Class of 2022 WMU Sasakawa Fellows Awards Ceremony took place on a warm, sunny afternoon on the last Sunday in October. 30 Sasakawa Fellows gathered at the Sasakawa Auditorium to be awarded certificates after officially completing their master's degree programs<sup>1</sup>.

It was the first time in three years that this ceremony was held in person. In attendance were Mr. Mitsuyuki Unno, Executive Director of The Nippon Foundation (NF), who made a day trip to Sweden from London specially for the occasion, and Dr. Cleopatra Doumbia-Henry, the honorable President of WMU. The audience comprised various WMU faculty and staff and 30 Sasakawa fellowship students from the Class of 2023, who all graciously took time to attend the ceremony and celebrate the birth of the new Sasakawa Fellows. It goes without saying that Mr. Eisuke Kudo, advisor to the Sasakawa Peace Foundation, made an appearance as well, flanked by two members of the Friends of WMU, Japan Secretariat.

After a flurry of commemorative photos of the graduates with Mr. Unno and President Doumbia-Henry, the awards ceremony began with opening remarks from Mr. E. Kudo, who congratulated the new Fellows for their achievements. The President came next, thanking The Nippon Foundation for its leadership in strengthening the Friends of WMU, Japan network and giving words of encouragement to the graduates, encouraging them to become leaders in the maritime field while fully utilizing the network they gained at WMU<sup>2</sup>. "By giving of yourself, your time, and your talent, so many people will benefit, just as you will yourself. Your network will ensure that everyone is involved in meaningful activities that will result in real outcomes for your country," she said.

When it was his turn at the podium, Mr. Unno spoke of the limitations of what can be done by a sole individual or country. "In order to pass the oceans on to future generations, we need to work across disciplines, professions, borders, and ethnicities. You already have the tools to do this. The Nippon Foundation's Alumni

Network, to which you will now belong," he stated.

Then, switching gears, Mr. Unno provided some advice which carried a more personal touch: "Do not be afraid to be irrelevant. Rather, you should proactively be irrelevant." He followed, "I feel irrelevance enriches our lives, and on some occasions, saves us. Please do not fear to be irrelevant and enjoy challenging a whole variety of things." Mr. Unno then handed each graduate a certificate emblazoned with their names, and gave a verbal word of congratulations in each of their native languages<sup>3</sup>. Felicidades. Selamat. Parabéns. Mabruk. Abhinandana. Omedetou.

After the formal ceremony, the venue changed to the brightly lit World Bistro for a relaxed reception accompanied by a delicious international brunch. The President called everyone to raise their glasses, which was followed by a non-alcoholic toast to congratulate the graduating students.

Near the end of the reception, Ms. Daniela Jimena Andrade Tamayo (Ecuador), representing the Class of 2023, gave a congratulatory speech, introducing her memories of the graduating class with great touches of humor and wit. Class of 2022 representative, Mr. Yankuba Marah (Sierra Leone), then addressed the audience, once again expressing his gratitude for The Nippon Foundation's support and his determination for the future. With that, the ceremony officially came to a close.

Unlike previous years, the event was held on a short Sunday afternoon, but it was a wonderful meeting where we were able to experience firsthand the "camaraderie" that is created when everyone involved in the journey - the journey of nurturing outstanding maritime leaders of the future - gathers in the same place. We have high hopes that this network will continue for many years to come after graduation.

<sup>1</sup> Though there were 31 Sasakawa Fellows total in the Class of 2022, 30 were present for the ceremony as one Fellow had to leave due to unforeseen circumstances.

<sup>2,3</sup> Please see attached for the full speeches.





# WMU Graduation Ceremony 2022

On October 31, 2022, a “normal” WMU Graduation Ceremony was held at the Malmö Live Clarion Conference Centre. The Friends of WMU, Japan Secretariat attended for the first time in three years - since 2019! We didn’t know what to expect, but we spent the past three years hearing much about the elaborate preparations and scale of the event. Anticipations were high.

The day began with a (now-traditional) procession from the WMU building to the ceremonial venue. Many graduates donned traditional cultural wear from their countries underneath graduation gowns. The contrast of the bright colors and sleek black made up for the cloudy weather Mother Nature decided to bestow that day. (Perhaps this was because the gorgeous weather was used up the previous day for the WMU Sasakawa Fellows Awards Ceremony.) The energetic march made an impression on all passersby; it was obvious that today was a special day.

2022 saw 276 graduates from 70 countries, 94 of whom were women. A total of 194 graduates received master’s degrees: 131 from the MSc program in Malmö and 63 from the universities in China. The ceremony commenced with President Cleopatra Doumbia-Henry at the podium, who expressed her delight in holding the first “normal” ceremony in three years. With the unwavering passion she is known for, President Doumbia-Henry



encouraged the graduates and spoke of how the WMU alumni network will be especially important for their futures.

Several esteemed guests made an appearance including Mr. Kitack Lim, IMO Secretary-General, Mr. Emanuele Grimaldi, President and CEO of Grimaldi Euromed, and Ms. Carina Nilsson, Mayor and President of the Malmö City Council.

Mr. Lim, a WMU alumnus, thanked the City of Malmö, the Swedish government, and the many donors for their continued support. He emphasized that WMU’s commitment to a balanced and holistic approach to interdisciplinary research on maritime affairs has greatly enhanced the capabilities of each and every WMU graduate. He expressed his high expectations for their future success.

**Kwadwo Forson-Adabo** (Ghana), Student Council President and a WMU Sasakawa Fellow, gave a speech on behalf of the graduating class. He talked of the strong bonds they have formed in their time together, stating, “Despite our diverse cultures and backgrounds during our studies, we lived as a family and shared knowledge and experiences together.”

We were proud to see several Fellows being recognized for their superb academic performance during the annual student prizes. **Saeid Hassankhani Dolatabadi** (Iran) received the Schlüter Foundation Dissertation Prize for the best dissertation in the field of shipping and marine environmental protection. Additionally, a new category of awards was established this year for the best graduate from each of the seven specializations, one of which went to **Debora Cristina Ferrari Ramalho** (Brazil) for the best student of OSGM.

2022 was also the year of superior leadership among WMU Sasakawa Fellows. Kalmar Prizes, awarded to students recognized for their leadership, were given to four Fellows: **Darshana Sampath Kumara** (Sri Lanka), **Latifa Oumouzoune** (Morocco), **Kwadwo Forson-Adaboh**, and **Saeid Hassankhani Dolatabadi**.

In the reception that followed, we raced to capture pictures of Fellows rejoicing this milestone with loved ones. We were especially overjoyed and honored to meet their families who flew in for the graduation. Try as we might, however, photos cannot do justice to the beautiful and emotional scenes of celebration. Words do not do justice either, but here it is - our best attempt to leave in records that on October 31, 2022, 31 WMU Sasakawa Fellows did, indeed, achieve a great thing.

## Best Graduate of OSGM

### Today's Dreams Build Tomorrow's Future

**Debora Ramalho**  
(Brazil, 2022)

On October 31, 2022, a very important cycle of my life was concluded: I obtained an MSc in Maritime Affairs as a specialist in OSGM. Receiving the award for best student of my specialization was a surprise for me; it took a few seconds for me to understand that all my efforts were enough to be recognized.

From the moment I got the exciting news from WMU that I would receive the SPF fellowship, I decided to make it a remarkable year, giving my best and taking the most from this opportunity. I pushed myself in challenging situations and chased for responsibilities. I got involved in as many activities as possible, academically and socially. Along with the assignments and dissertation, I carried out the responsibility of being my specialization representative in the student council, which was very challenging for me. Academically and personally, this was a very intense experience.

Few people from Brazil have had this opportunity to study at



WMU. Therefore, I feel very honored to have the support of SPF and The Nippon Foundation. Representing my country and getting a distinction position was above my expectations. However, this experience showed me what I am capable of, and I definitely will seek to go as far as possible in my professional future.

I would like to dedicate this chapter of my life to my father, who was my life example, and dreamed with me until this day came. Unfortunately, his story on earth ended on the same day of my graduation, but I believe he managed to watch my award with me in spirit. Success requires some sacrifices, but in the end, it pays off.

## Schlüter Foundation Dissertation Prize

### Maritime Energy Management, a Key to Unlocking Big Changes!

**Saeid Hassankhani Dolatabadi**  
(Iran, 2022)

As a seafarer (marine engineer), I have worked with conventional marine diesel engines and seen how these processes pollute the ocean and environment. From the beginning of my career, I have been eager to pursue my professional studies in alternative fuels and solutions in energy management to cut emissions and pollution from vessels, taking a step against climate change.

In 2021, with the support of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation (SPF), I was given the opportunity to fulfill my lifelong desire to study Maritime Energy Management at WMU. During my master's thesis, I focused on researching a novel approach to decarbonization in the marine industry. My thesis topic was about combining green hydrogen and renewable energies to propose a hybrid zero-emissions model titled, "The Feasibility of Utilizing Hydrogen Fuel Cell, Wind, and Solar Power on the Bulk Carriers for Propulsion," which received the Schlüter Foundation Dissertation Prize for an outstanding dissertation in the field of shipping and marine environmental protection. The study was divided into two main



parts: 1) Assessments of potential alternatives, and 2) Technical evaluations of the selected options. The calculation of energy production and requirements showed that ships can use hydrogen fuel cells, wind, and solar power for propulsion on certain routes and under specific conditions to be zero-emissions.

I would like to thank Chairman Sasakawa, my supervisor professor Aykut Olcer, my friends, my family, WMU faculties and staff, and especially MEM colleagues for their support and help throughout my educational life in Malmö. We thrive on challenges; I will keep going to make the ocean bluer and the world a better place to live. I wish peace and happiness to all the world, especially to my country, Iran.

## Kalmar Prize

**Awarded by Kalmar Global to students who are recognized as leaders among their peers.**

**Kwadwo Forson-Adaboh (Ghana), Saeid Hassankhani Dolatabadi (Iran)  
Latifa Oumouzoune (Morocco), Darshana Sampath Kumara Habakkala Watawala (Sri Lanka)**



# SPF Delegates' Visit to Bangladesh - A New Arena of Relationship



**Khalid Mahmud**  
(Bangladesh, 2007)

Whilst the Sasakawa Fellows were eagerly expecting an uninterrupted link between the Sasakawa Forum Bangladesh and SPF, it was a boundless privilege for us to have a visit from the President of SPF, Dr. Atsushi Sunami, and his team. We were able to introduce them to the Leprosy Eradicate Strategy Assistance Program (LESAP), the M/S S.N Corporation Ship Recycling Yard, and the Bangladesh Marine Academy (BMA).

On 25 Nov 2022, Sasakawa Fellow Mr. Md Mohidul Islam, Secretary for the Ministry of Civil Aviation, received the President at Dhaka. I myself and the Commandant of BMA, Dr. Sajid Hussain, received him at Chattogram Airport. At Hotel Radisson Blue, we met the rest of the delegates: Dr. Tomonari



Visit to M/S SN Ship Recycling Yard, Chattogram, 26 Nov 2022

Akamatsu, Mr. Masanori Kobayashi, Mr. Emadul Islam, and Professor Nasrullah.

The President and his team attended a Sasakawa Fellows meeting followed by a dinner at Hotel Mughal. Ms. Amena, coordinator of LESAP (supported by Sasakawa Fellows), presented the project activity. She requested for Dr. Sunami to convey a message to the world leader Yohei Sasakawa, asking him for a kind visit to see the activities being serviced to the deprived rural people. Dr. Sunami wanted to know the detailed strategic plan of this program and acknowledged that he will inform the



Sasakawa Fellows meeting: Leprosy Eradicate Strategy Assistance Program (LESAP), 25 Nov 2022

Chairman of The Nippon Foundation.

The next day, the delegates, now joined by Ippeita Nishida, a senior research fellow from SPF, visited the S.N Shipyard for an overview of their ship recycling activities. CEO Mr. Barkat Ullah, marine engineer Mahbubur Rahman, and Captain Sirajul Mowla conducted a briefing during the yard visit, where Sasakawa Fellows are working on further exploration towards tremendous changes in recycling technologies.

Subsequently, the delegates visited the Bangladesh Marine Academy to meet with the cadets, WMU alumni, and other maritime personnel. In his address, Dr. Sunami expressed his interest in future plans towards extending cordial bilateral technical assistance. Later, the WMU alumni, including Sasakawa Fellows, called on a distinct meeting with the president and delegates. In the welcome speech, the member-secretary of the Friends of WMU, Bangladesh, emphasized that the compulsions of ensuring sophisticated global trade and shipping obliged BMA, with the assistance of the WMU alumni, to provide a world-class maritime education and training.

Lastly, the Sasakawa Fellows attended an international conference entitled "Ensuring a Sustainable Blue Economy in an Open and Interconnected Indo-Pacific Region: Japan-Bangladesh Cooperation in Synergizing Latent Potentials among South & Southeast Asian Bay of Bengal Littoral and Adjacent Countries", which was jointly organized by the Centre for Bay of Bengal Studies (CBOBS), Independent University Bangladesh, and SPF. On behalf of all Sasakawa Fellows of Bangladesh, I would like to express our heartiest gratitude to SPF for motivating us with the kind presence of the President and team.



# Indonesia-Japan Business Matching Forum in Jakarta

**Eko Maja Priyanto** (Indonesia, 2017)

On November 17, 2022, the Japan Ship Machinery and Equipment Association (JSMEA) held the Indonesia-Japan Business Matching Forum in Jakarta. This forum was supported by The Nippon Foundation (NF), and was the third forum organized by JSMEA in Indonesia. The first one was held in March 2014, and the second on July 2016.

Even though the forum was held in the post-pandemic situation and during the busy circumstances of Indonesia Presidency G20, the event still received positive responses and attracted approximately 178 attendees. The attendees included a delegation from the Ministry of Transportation, Ministry of Industry, Indonesia National Ship Owners Association (INSA), Indonesia Shipbuilding and Offshore Industries Association, WMU Sasakawa Fellows, and other Indonesia maritime stakeholders. I was fortunate enough to attend the Forum with 4 other Sasakawa Fellows as part of our support towards NF's activities in Indonesia.

From Japan, a delegation of around 38 individuals took part. This included the Director of International Affairs Office, Shipbuilding and Ship Machinery Division, Maritime Bureau Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) Mr. Takanori Maeda, who delivered a keynote speech with the theme: For Enhancement of Cooperation between Japan and Indonesia in the Maritime Sector. In addition, Chairman of JSMEA Kinoshita Shigeki said, "The aim of the forum is to strengthen



The author is second from the right

the collaboration of the shipping industry between two countries. Moreover, Indonesia is a vital market for ship engine manufacturers in Japan." In this occasion, 15 JSMEA members also delivered presentations on their latest products and technologies, particularly environmentally friendly and energy efficient technology, such as methanol and LNG-fueled engines.

In this business forum, all participants had the opportunity to spread their network and, at the same time, meet directly with Japanese manufacturers. The organizers had prepared JSMEA members with information desks in the seminar room for exchanging information with Indonesian customers directly.

I was very proud that the forum was successful, especially when Sasakawa Fellows who were funded by NF got hand in hand with JSMEA projects which are also supported by NF. We do hope that the event can bring mutual cooperation for both countries to the next level, and we look forward to seeing this kind of event again in the near future.

# Vietnam-Japan Business Matching Forum in Hanoi

**Mal Thi Anh Tuyet** (Viet Nam, 2008)

**Nguyen Van Tan** (Viet Nam, 2016)

On 5th December 2022, amongst the fresh and slightly cool air in Hanoi, the beautiful capital city of Vietnam, the first ever seminar Vietnam-Japan Business Matching Forum was jointly held by the Vietnam Shipowner Association and Japan Ship Machinery and Equipment Association thanks to the generous support of The Nippon Foundation. The event attracted many shipping companies across Vietnam, attending with the hope of finding new technological solutions in order to optimize their companies' operations.

Seven Japanese manufacturing companies participated in the event to feature their latest, high-quality, and advanced technological products which are used in maritime transport. The presentations delivered by each company's representative indicated great initiative, awareness, and responsibility for the International Maritime Organization and recent global shipping strategies which aim at environmental protection and energy savings, especially reducing greenhouse gases. Although the manufacturers pursue the most advanced and well-developed technologies, their commitment to safety remains the top priority.

The forum acts as a platform to promote exchange between the ever-growing shipping industries of Vietnam and Japan. It helps Vietnamese shipowners have better and more resourceful options to equip their vessels in compliance with global shipping regulations and, at the same time, maximize their operational costs and efficiencies.



Some Sasakawa Fellows, being representatives of different authorities and companies in Vietnam, also appeared in the event. Mr. Vo Duy Thang, WMU 02, the head of the shipping and maritime services department of the Maritime Vietnam Administration, contributed a presentation on the current vietnamse shipping market status with an overview of Vietnamse's development trends, challenges and policies in 20-and-30-years' time in shipping transport.

## STRENGTHENING OUR BONDS

Through the forum, we could see the future technological progression in the marine sector, the advantages and challenges in maritime management, and potential cooperation between Vietnam and Japan in shipping. As part of the a regulatory and policymaking body, we will work with my department on improving legal frameworks in order to help improve the operational efficiencies of business enterprises, and strengthen the bonds between Vietnam and Japan in shipping.



# Overview of the EEXI Regulation and the CII Rating Scheme



**Yuki Ichimura**  
(Japan, 2021)

International shipping accounts for about 2% of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the world. In order to address the pressing issue of global warming, international shipping must further reduce GHG emissions. Up to now, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) has adopted a series of measures, including the Energy Efficiency Design Index (EEDI) for new ships and the Ship Fuel Oil Consumption Data Collection System (DCS).

The 76th session of the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) held in June 2021 agreed to amend Annex VI of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) to introduce new measures called Energy Efficiency Existing Ship Index (EEXI) and Carbon Intensity Indicator (CII) ratings (Fig.1). The revised convention entered into force on 1 January 2023.

EEXI applies to all ships of 400 gross tonnage (GT) or above engaged in international voyages. Specific vessels above a certain deadweight tonnage (DWT) or GT shall meet the standards called required EEXI, which are set for each type of ship. Required EEXI is based on the standard values (reference lines) of Phase 2 or 3 of the EEDI regulation. This means that EEXI requires existing vessels to reduce fuel consumption to the same level as newly built vessels. There are some differences between EEDI and EEXI, such as the use of default fuel consumption values for engines that are not certified under the NO<sub>x</sub> Technical Code, 2008. The EEXI calculation guidelines (MEPC.333(76)) summarizes such differences. Like EEDI, information necessary to calculate EEXI and the process of calculation shall be included into EEXI technical file of the vessel.

Although there is no specific designation in the Convention on how to comply with required EEXI, engine power limitation is considered the most effective way, and it is expected that most of the vessels subject to this regulation will adopt this method (Fig.2). In this case, engine power limitation cannot be lifted once it is set, except for under specific circumstances such as securing safety of the vessel (e.g. bad weather).

The flag State or the Recognized Organization (RO) shall verify whether the vessel meets the required EEXI on the date of the first renewal, interim, or annual survey on or after 1 January 2023. If the vessel satisfies the standard by engine power limitation, the Administration or the RO will inspect the Onboard Management Manual, which describes the details of engine power limitation including the inspection method of power limiting devices. After the Administration or the RO confirms that the vessel meets the required EEXI, the International Energy Efficiency Certificate

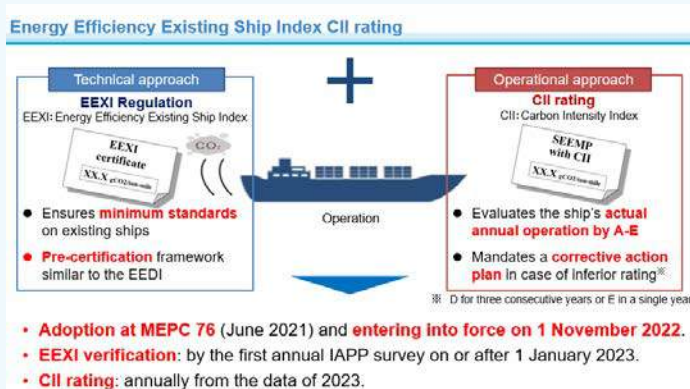


Fig.1 Overview of the EEXI regulation and the CII rating scheme

will be issued for non-EEDI ships or updated for EEDI-applied ships.

The CII rating is a scheme under which the Administration or RO evaluates carbon intensity (actual fuel consumption) of a ship on a scale of A to E. A ship's Carbon Intensity is calculated based on data gathered through DCS. Ships of 5,000 GT or more under EEDI-applied ship types are subject to this scheme. Based on the data gathered through DCS in 2019 of the world's fleet, a CII threshold (required CII) is set for each ship type, and the ship is rated according to the difference between the required CII and its carbon intensity. The required CII will be strengthened by 2% each year until 2026, meaning that ships are required to improve their operations every year (the threshold for 2027 and beyond has not yet been determined). Data collection for the first ratings began on 1 January 2023, and the first rating will be given by the Administration or RO in 2024. The cycle will be repeated thereafter. Prior to the implementation of the scheme, shipping companies are required to provide methods for achieving the required CII as Part III of Ship Energy Efficiency Management Plan (SEEMP) of their vessels. In addition, if the rating result is E or D for three consecutive years, the company must prepare a plan of corrective actions which includes an analysis of the causes of the rating as well as the measures necessary to achieve required CII in the next year. The plan shall be approved by the Administration or the RO.

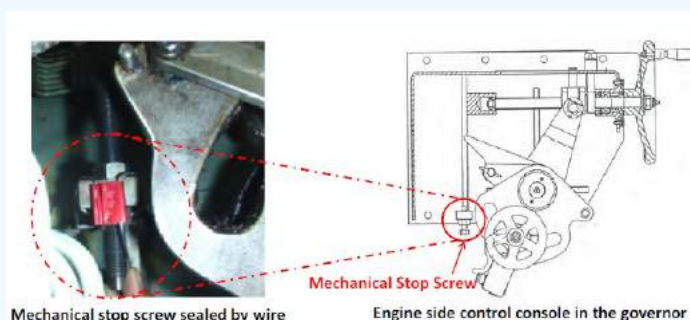


Fig.2 Image of engine power limitation  
Source: 2021 Guidelines on the shaft / engine power limitation system to comply with the EEXI requirements and use of a power reserve.

# Friends of WMU, Japan Newsletter

## Survey Results

May 2022

### Who took the survey?

**135**  
WMU-Sasakawa  
Fellows

**45**  
Countries

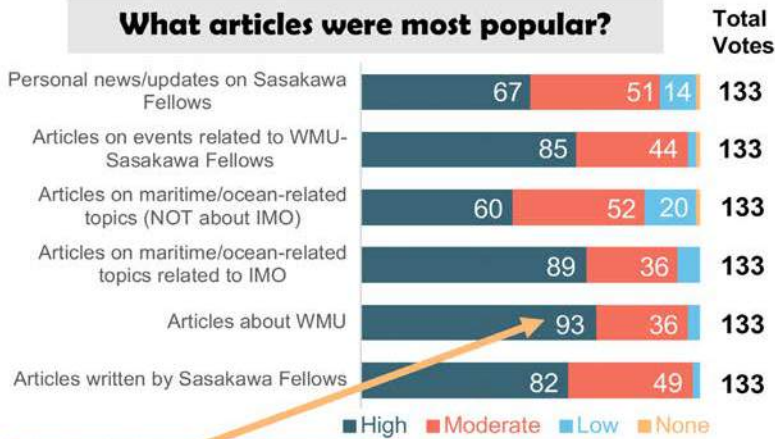


After much work, we were able to send surveys to over 650 people.

Alumni live all around the world, so we are very pleased with the number of responders.

We will take your suggestions to heart and use them to improve the Newsletter and further connect the WMU Sasakawa Fellows. Thank you so much for your priceless insight and advice!!

### What articles were most popular?



The majority of you love seeing news related to **WMU!**

### Popular suggestions for future articles

"Education, research, and job opportunities for Fellows"

"New policies from different countries on seafarers"

"Articles on Japanese and Fellows' country cultures"

"Safety of non-conventional ships, port technologies, and operations"

"Digitalization in the maritime sector and security"

"Updates on activities from SPF staff and Chairman Sasakawa"

"New research findings in the safety and environmental field"

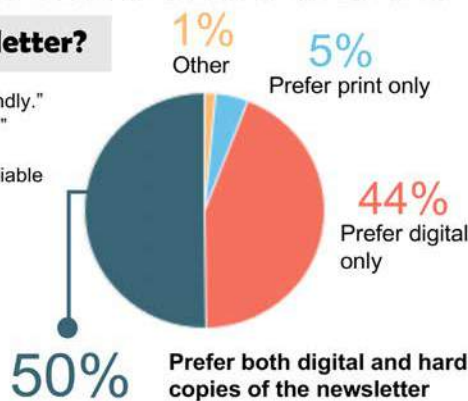
### Digital or print newsletter?



"Digital is environmentally friendly."  
"Easier and quicker to access."  
"Saves money and paper."  
"Postal deliveries can be unreliable in my country."



"Print is easier to read."  
"Hard copies are good for showing to others."  
"I like to collect them."  
"There's sentimental value in receiving real copies."



### Your ideas to strengthen the alumni network

Organize virtual meetups, seminars, and forums to exchange ideas starting with same classes and regions

Recognition and awards for active network participation

Allow stories and comments to be posted on Facebook and the website

Use networking platforms and apps where each Fellow can interact

### Other



**79%**  
Have shown the newsletter to others

**92%**  
Have kept in touch with classmates



**66%**  
Think the newsletter is helpful for the alumni network



# Message on Turkey-Syria Earthquake

On February 6, 2023, a 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck southern Türkiye (Turkey) and northern Syria. The massive tremor was soon followed by a series of powerful aftershocks, resulting in devastating damage and loss of life. As we write this today, the death toll stands at more than 52,000 people and over a million have been left homeless. On behalf of OPRI-SPF, we would like to express our deepest sympathies to everyone who was impacted by the disaster.

The WMU-Sasakawa family includes three Fellows from Türkiye: Ozlem Mulun Akpinar (2007), Firat Bolat (2017), and Deniz Can Serter (2019). As of February 13,

we were able to confirm through email that they and their families are physically safe and well. That is not to say, however, that they were unaffected by the earthquake, having loved ones who do live in the southeastern region.

Ms. Serter was kind enough to provide a reputable organization that is accepting donations to help with disaster relief efforts. Please see the following link for information on the Ahbap Association: <https://ahbap.org/disasters-turkey>

Our thoughts are currently with our Turkish Fellows and all those affected by the disaster. We sincerely hope for the fast recovery of the people of Türkiye and Syria.

## Meeting of President Cleopatra Doumbia-Henry and Japanese Fellows



On February 15, President Cleopatra Doumbia-Henry visited the Maritime Bureau of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) on the occasion of her visit to Japan to attend an Extraordinary International Executive Board meeting at the International Association of Maritime Universities (IAMU). While there, she met with seven Sasakawa Fellows who work at the Bureau.

Each Fellow talked about their job/work after graduation. They expressed their appreciation and explained

how their WMU experience had been helpful not only at IMO meetings, but also in various other circumstances. President Doumbia-Henry was thrilled to hear about their achievements. She expressed her gratitude to the Japanese government and NF and conveyed her high expectations for the Fellows and their future activities.

We would like to thank Mr. I. Takahashi, Director-General of the Maritime Bureau, for his consideration in arranging this valuable meeting.

### *Editor's note*

About one year has passed since the start of the war between Ukraine and Russia. I'd like to offer my sincere condolences to the victims and pray for the safety and health of the people of both countries. Conflicts like this remind me once again that it is difficult for the world to come together as one. However, it also made me heartedly realize that the contributions that the Sasakawa Peace

Foundation has made to deepen cross-border relations, including this newsletter, are very, very valuable. I am honored once again to be able to contribute to a part of those efforts. Finally, I encourage readers to contact old friends across national borders who you have not heard from for some time.

Shun Masui  
JSTRA





# Class of 2022

## WMU Sasakawa Fellows Awards Ceremony

### Congratulatory Address

Speech by

**Mr. Mitsuyuki UNNO**

Executive Director of The Nippon Foundation

Dear Graduates,

It gives me great pleasure to stand here today to congratulate the new Sasakawa Fellows on their graduation. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to President Cleopatra Doumbia-Henry and the faculty at WMU, for the excellent education they have provided. My gratitude also extends to home nations and organisations for sending the fellows to WMU. Most of all, I would like to thank and congratulate the families for their continued encouragement and support to the fellows.

There are many complex issues that entangles the ocean. You have refined your expertise at WMU, and I am sure that you will now be able to maximise your strength in your career. However, it is not always enough to just be an expert in your own field of expertise in order to untangle the complex issues. I would like to remind everyone to always keep a broad mind.

As we have seen with the rapid evolution of technology in recent times, events comparable to 300 years of change in the history of mankind have occurred in just the last 15 years or so. Just recently, Tesla unveiled its first humanoid robot, Optimus. I am sure that companies outside of maritime field like Google will build ships one day. A single maritime cluster, fixed in traditional thinking, where shipbuilders build ships, shipping companies transport goods will not be able to keep up with the changes that are certain to take place. Innovation will only come from going beyond the existing framework of the 'maritime field' and building a 'marine cluster' that involves all industries, setting ambitious goals that seem difficult to achieve, and looking ahead to work out what is needed to achieve them.

That is why I hope that you will never cease to be interested in different fields, set high goals, and keep on growing as individuals to drive change. Of course, we will also be happy to help you continue to take on challenges after graduation. There is a limit to what can be solved by the efforts of one country, one institution and one person. In order to pass the oceans on to future generations, we need to work across disciplines, professions, borders and ethnicities. You already have the tools to do this. The Nippon Foundation's Alumni Network, to which you will now

belong. This network will be of great support to you when you take on new challenges. Currently, the Nippon Foundation has a network of over 1,600 Fellows in over 150 countries. But our achievements are not about numbers. What is important is that you are able to utilise this network and work together towards solving the problems of the oceans.

Congratulations on your graduation. And welcome to the Friends of WMU. We sincerely look forward to new collaborations with you in the future.

That was my congratulatory speech as an Executive Director of Nippon Foundation. I want to give some more personal talk.

At WMU, you gained knowledge, experience and colleagues, fully motivated to return and be active in your respective countries. I have no doubt you will do well, but if I were to offer you one piece of advice, it will be "Do not be afraid to be irrelevant. Rather, you should proactively be irrelevant."

Not just in the world of business, but everywhere around the world, people try to avoid being irrelevant to maximise efficiency. This is somewhat related to the fact that with technological development, more precise calculation is now possible.

Representative example is the problem solving intelligence model using AI. AI's world is an aggregation of data that is useful and comprehensible. There is no room for irrelevance or waste that has no use or cannot be understood. In another words, whatever is irrelevant or cannot be controlled could be eliminated, and you will be living a life that only enables you to see what you want to see.

AI is useful, without a doubt. However, human intelligence is able to accept an unforeseen existence that one has not yet sensed. To put it in another way, if you belong to a certain community or system without having any doubts, you will be no different to a machine.

I have talked about the importance of "DIFFERENT FIELDS" . Different fields may look irrelevant if you shut

yourself in your own specialised field. However, this irrelevant exercise is the key to convert from 0 to 1. That is why I truly hope that you will do something that is irrelevant. The first step could be to read a book that is completely irrelevant to your field. Take some time away from your research and immerse yourself in a hobby.

Lastly, what we should not forget is that “Humans are with the Ocean.” The key word here is ‘with.’ Humans cannot avoid using the ocean for our wellbeing. However, can we perceive the ocean not just as means, but as an existence that we humans live ‘with’ ? Solving the ocean and environmental challenge boils down to this one point.

To think about the ocean that does not say anything or future generations that are not yet born may be irrelevant to your life. However, we are able to accept such irrelevant existence. I feel

irrelevance enriches our lives and on some occasions, saves us. Please do not fear to be irrelevant and enjoy challenging a whole variety of things.

I love to drink, so I challenged beer which did not help my waistline. This is not what I mean to enjoy being irrelevant. Do not follow my example.

Now, I will be presenting your certificates. This is not merely a proof of entry to our network. This is to certify that you, as a Nippon Foundation Fellow, will remain to be part of our network for the rest of your life even after you graduate. At the same time, it is a proof that you will commit to continue solving social challenges. You are the chosen ones from different countries around the world. With that commitment in your heart, I am confident that you are determined to work together with us to solve global scale and intergovernmental challenges.

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Speech by

**Dr. Cleopatra Doumbia-Henry**

President of WMU

Mr Unno, Mr Kudo, all our friends from Japan:

I must start by thanking you for coming today and arranging this event. It is such a deep pleasure to welcome Mr Unno to the University again, after so many years when this has not proved possible. And we are honoured that Mr Kudo has been able to find time in his busy schedule to visit us twice this autumn. The worst effects of the pandemic are clearly receding across the world, as science and research has provided mankind with a weapon against this virus. It is so wonderful to see this new dawn.

One effect of the pandemic has been to isolate us from each other. Even in small regions, movement was difficult and meeting others often impossible. The effect on international friendships was dramatic, with only virtual meetings being possible for over two years.

However, by making it impossible to see our friends in person, the pandemic has given us one very real benefit: we now know just how much we value these relationships. We appreciate how personal contact and personal networks affect the quality of everything we do, from the mundane to the novel. It is much easier to break new ground when we are part of a trusted team. We are more responsive, more cooperative and more creative when working inside a supportive network of people who share

our goals and our values.

The Sasakawa Fellows form a global network that enriches all of you, and all of us. Each of you has a fundamental understanding of what matters. Your studies at WMU have provided you with a framework for action firmly based on moral principles and the goal of global sustainable development.

You have learned that the currency of a real network is generosity not personal gain. By working together you make every single one of us richer, in both tangible and intangible terms. By giving of yourself, your time and your talent, so many people will benefit, just as you will yourself. Your network will ensure that everyone is involved in meaningful activities that will result in real outcomes for your country.

Your network will connect you to people who are world leaders in the maritime and oceans fields. It will provide you with knowledge and opportunities to update your skills as time passes. Your network will reach outside your field of expertise and bring inter-disciplinary ideas and innovation.

I would like to ask you all to join with me now in thanking Mr Unno and Mr Kudo for their inspired leadership in ensuring the vitality and strength of the Sasakawa Fellows Network. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

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